

1 showing the operating device disposed outside the control unit and not disposed on the circuit board. If the examiner approves of this change to the drawing, a formal copy will be submitted in due course.

Applicants maintain that the Arai et al reference does not teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention. For example, in both claims 11 and 25 it is recited that the operating devices, which are controlled by the control circuits and are connected to the control circuits by the connector parts, are disposed outside the control unit. This is in contradistinction to the structure of Arai et al. where the operating devices are part of the control unit, i.e., they are mounted on the circuit board. For example, at column 6, lines 52-29 Arai et al. recites that the assembly 40 connects the general purpose region (11, column 2 line 16) to the programable region (21, column 2 lines 17-18). Thus, all of the components in Arai et al are mounted on the circuit board which is in contradistinction to the claimed structure recited in claim 11. The examiner's argument that the phrase "for controlling a respective operating device disposed outside the control unit or which are not disposed on the circuit board" is functional language is agreed with by the applicant, however these limitations still must be met by the prior art. The Aria reference must be capable of "controlling a respective operating device disposed outside the control unit

or which are not disposed on the circuit board" which the Aria et al reference clearly is not.

At column 1, lines 6-12, Arai et al describe how the object of their invention is to connect electrical parts which are mounted on the same circuit board. Column 2, lines 1-25 of Arai et al., the summary of their invention, reinforces this object. Thus, Arai et al. certainly cannot be read to meet the limitation of "controlling a respective operating device disposed outside the control unit" as found in claims 11 and 25.

Claims 11 and 25 have been amended to include a substantial portion previously in claim 12. The Aria et al reference does not show the connector parts for receiving a counterpart connector connected to the connecting lines of the operating devices claimed by the applicant. Nor does Aria et al show the counterpart connectors capable of being plugged into the connector parts on the assembly side of the component board. Although this latter feature is functional it must still be met by the Aria et al reference. Aria et al discloses through holes which are used to connect different levels of the same multi-layer printed circuit board. Figure 4 shows the through holes in greater detail. There is no hint that these through holes are in any way prepared to receive counterpart connectors to form an electric contact with connecting lines. The connectors 100 of Aria et al which are located on the side of the printed circuit board are not the

connectors which are located in the vicinity of the respective electronic modules. These connectors are labeled with the number 40.


Further, Arai et al clearly do not teach anything that can be considered to meet the limitations of claims 14-16, which recite that "line connections(42,43) are provided on the component, which without an interposition of electrical or electronic components electrically connect at least one contact element (50) of a connector part (20) to another contact element (50) of the same connector part, or to a contact element (50) of a different connector part (21)". There simply is no teaching within Arai et al. which can in any way be said to be a connection between the individual contact elements of one or more connectors. Reference 81a considered by the examiner to be a line connection clearly is an electrical or electronic component which is in contradistinction to the claim. Specifically, **without an interposition of electrical or electronic components, i.e. switch.**

Likewise, Arai et al clearly do not have any structure which can in any way be said to teach the recitation in claims 22-24 of "the component board (3) is mounted onto a surface of a housing part (2) of the control unit with the assembly side (14) of the component board mounted facing away from said surfaces of the housing part."

Moreover, the structure of this application is directed to "An electronic control unit." This structure also cannot be found in the reference to Arai et al. Arai et al do not teach an electronic unit as applicants do.

For the above reasons, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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REG/BS/SLS/ncc

August 20, 2002